



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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April 10, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FERREE'S
GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED - FERREE'S SITES ONE THROUGH
FIVE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Ferree's Sites One through Five Group Homes (Ferree's or Agency) operated by Ferree's Group Home, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation.

Ferree's are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 8 -17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ferree's Site Five was providing services for one DCFS child, four Riverside County children and one San Bernardino County child. The remaining Group Homes were not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

All five Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the Site Five review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection, and interviews with the child placed in the Group Home at the time of

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the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain his perspective on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Since Ferree's Sites One through Four were not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our review, the monitoring review was limited to a facility inspection which covers basic child safety and licensing issues and a review of personnel background checks.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. For example, Ferree's Site Two needs to repair and replace items throughout the home and provide children a computer with a variety of programs. Ferree's Site Four needs to provide additional educational supplies and resources. In addition, Ferree's Site Five needs to maintain an appropriate back yard lawn and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short term goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:DC:AA:CC:dl

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
C.S.J. Kidogo, Chairman of the Board, Ferree's Group Homes, Incorporated
Phillip Ferree, Executive Director, Ferree's Group Homes, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Ferree's Group Home, Inc. -
Ferree's Site One -- Cabazon, CA 92230 --
License Number: 330908170 -- Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Ferree's Site One Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Six

Comments: The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for its employees.

Recommendation

None.

Ferree's Group Home, Inc.
Ferree's Site Two -- Cabazon, CA 92230
License Number: 330910416 -- Rate Classification Level: 11

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Ferree's Site Two Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, two of the burners on the stove are not working and the mirror in the children's bathroom has water damage.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials are also available. However, the Group Home did not provide the children a computer with a variety of programs.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Ferree's Group Home management:**
 - a. Repair the burners on the stove.**
 - b. Repair or replace the bathroom mirror.**
 - c. Provide the children a computer with a variety of programs.**

II. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Six

Comments: The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for its employees.

Recommendation

None.

Ferree's Group Home, Inc.
Ferree's Site Three -- Banning, CA 92220
License Number: 336400048 -- Rate Classification Level: 11

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Ferree's Site Three Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the door to a storage room is damaged and not secure.

Overall, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the carpet in bedroom three is damaged.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Ferree's Group Home management:**
 - a. Replace and secure the storage room door.**
 - b. Repair the carpet in bedroom three.**

II. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Six

Comments: The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for its employees.

Recommendation

None.

Ferree's Group Home, Inc.
Ferree's Site Four -- Banning, CA 92220
License Number: 336401342 -- Rate Classification Level: 11

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Ferree's Site Four Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the right rear burner on the stove is not working.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, DVD player, and a computer with a variety of programs. However, the Group Home does not have a sufficient amount of educational supplies and resources.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Ferree's Group Home management:**
 - a. Repair the burner on the stove.**
 - b. Provide additional educational supplies and resources for the children.**

II. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Six

Comments: The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for its employees.

Recommendation

None.

**Ferree's Group Home, Inc.
Ferree's Site Five -- Banning, CA 92220
License Number: 336402245 -- Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments: Ferree's Site Five Group Home is located in a residential community. Overall, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front yard is clean and adequately landscaped. However, the backyard lawn is sparse, uneven and has a large amount of weeds.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, a dresser in bedroom one is damaged and the cold water to the sink in the bathroom in bedroom three does not work.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ferree's Group Home management:

- a. **Provide and maintain an appropriate backyard lawn.**
- b. **Replace the dresser in bedroom one.**
- c. **Repair the cold water to the sink in the bathroom in bedroom three.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments: The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in the Program Statement. The child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current and input from all members of the treatment team and child are included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

2. Ferree's Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that include short term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments: The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs and is progressing in a satisfactory manner in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of the child's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments: The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child also participates in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which he has an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments: According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

The child is aware of his right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment –Interviews with children****Sample size: One**

Comments: The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. The child attends religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks. The child also receives voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: One**

Comments: The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends his allowance as he chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items. The child is also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

None.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks**Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents****Sample size: Six**

Comments: The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for its employees.

Recommendation

None.

FERREE'S GROUP HOME, INC.

P.O. BOX 570, CABAZON, CA. 92230

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Date: December 17, 2008

To: Candace Rhue
Group Home Auditor Supervisor

From: Alisha Jones
Ferree's Group Home Administrator

Subject: REVISED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS FOR AUDIT JULY 21, 2008

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #2, 14542 Mission Street, Cabazon, 92230 License #: 330910416, all corrections have been implemented as of August 29, 2008.

I. Facility Environment

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management must repair the burners on the kitchen stove, replace the bathroom mirror, provide the children a computer with a variety of programs.

Method of Correction

Site #2 Mission

- a. The CAP was implemented and the kitchen burners was repaired on August 20, 2008 and is operating with no problems. A monthly maintenance inspection for all major appliances have been implemented to ensure quality control. The facility manager will be responsible for monitoring the maintenance schedule for all repair requests until completed. The administrator will ensure the CAP remains implemented.
- b. The CAP was implemented and a new bathroom mirror was purchased and installed on August 10, 2008. A weekly facility inspection schedule was implemented and will be monitored by the facility manager to ensure all repairs are done in a timely manner. The administrator will ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AUDIT JULY 21, 2008 CONTINUED

Site #2 Mission

- c. The CAP was implemented and a new computer was purchased to replace the old one August 19, 2008. The facility manager will inspect the computer monthly to ensure it is working properly. The facility administrator will ensure the corrective action plan is implemented.

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #3, 2269 West Nicolet, Banning, 92220 License #336400048, all corrections has been implemented as of August 29, 2008.

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management will replace and secure the Storage room door and repair the carpet in bedroom three.

Site #3 Nicolet Street

- a. The CAP was implemented and a new storage door was purchased on July 25, 2008 and put up and secured.
The staff will utilize a repair form and a request will be given to the facility manager. The facility manager will ensure all repairs are done in a timely manner. The Administrator will do a monthly inspection of the facility ensuring all correction.
- b. The CAP was implemented and the carpet in bedroom three was repaired on July 31, 2008. Quarterly the facility manager will inspect the carpet in the facility. The facility manager will notify the administrator if carpet replacement is necessary. The facility administrator will ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AUDIT JULY 21, 2008 CONTINUED

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #4, 1621 Durward Street, Banning, 92220 License #336401342, all corrections has been implemented as of September 2, 2008

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management will repair the burner on the stove and maintain sufficient educational supplies and resources.

Site #4 Durward Street

- a. The CAP was implemented and the burner on the stove was repaired on September 2, 2008. The staff will utilize the repair request form. The facility manager will ensure repairs are done in timely manner. The administrator will conduct a monthly inspection to ensure the CAP remains implemented
- b. The CAP was implemented and educational supplies and resources were purchased on July 15, 2008. The facility manager will ensure all education material are kept accessible to residents. The administrator will ensure the CAP remains implemented.

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #5 860 South 22nd Street, Banning, 92220 License #336402245, all corrections has been implemented as of August 31, 2008.

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management will provide and maintain an appropriate lawn in the backyard, replace the damaged dresser in bedroom one, and repair the cold water to the bathroom sink in bedroom three.

Site #5 22nd Street

- a. The CAP was not implemented; October 31, 2008 is scheduled for reseeding. The facility gardener will be responsible for the reseeding process. The facility manager will monitor and ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN AUDIT JULY 21, 2008 CONTINUED

Site #5 22nd Street

- b. The CAP was implemented: in bedroom one the dresser was replaced on July 31, 2008. The facility manager will inspect all dressers monthly to ensure dressers are in good condition. The administrator will ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.
- c. The CAP was implemented and the cold water to the sink in the bathroom was turned on July 21, 2008. The staff will check daily to ensure the residents do not turn off the water. The facility manager will monitor daily to ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.

II. Program Services

Recommendation: Ferree's Group Homes management will provide and maintain A comprehensive Need and Service Plan that are specific and measurable and will include short-term goals.


Site #5 22nd Street

- a. The CAP was not implemented; The Needs and Service Plan will have specific and measurable and short-term goals by next reporting period of September 15, 2008. The facility social worker will gather feedback from staff, behavioral logs, and daily progress notes. This information will be the method to implement the measurable and short-term goals which was added to the clients new Needs and Service Plan dated August 24, 2008. The facility social worker will be responsible for the implementation of the measurable and short-term goals. The facility manager will ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AUDIT JULY 21, 2008 CONTINUED

Ferree's Group Homes has implemented all of the recommend corrections.
The administrator will do a monthly follow-up with each facility manager starting
September 1, 2008.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alisha Jones".

Alisha Jones

Group Home Administrator